

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02224 311037Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 USSS-00 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 /161 W

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R 311005Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7925

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2224

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CY

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS MEETS THE PRESS

SUMMARY: IN MONTHLY PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR 13-DAY ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY, ARCHBISHOP (1) MADE AMBIGUOUS COMMENT RE GRECO-TURKISH DIALOGUE ON CYPRUS AND SAID HE WILL VISIT ATHENS "VERY SOON"; (2) ADMITTED SUPPORTERS HAD COMMITTED SERIES OF ILLEGAL ACTS AGAINST ENOSIST CAMP; AND (3) OFFERED CYPRUS AS VENUE FOR MID EAST PEACE TALKS. WE THINK GOVT WILL CONTINUE HAVE TROUBLE OVER VIOLENCE-ANTIVIOLENCE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. MARKEZINIS AND ATHENS. ARCHBISHOP MADE EFFORT TO PORTRAY CLOSE ATHENS-NICOSIA WORKING RELATIONSHIPS ON CYPRUS PROBLEM, THUS DUCKING REQUEST TO INTERPRET MARKEZINIS' "LEADER AND QUEUE" METAPHOR. ASKED RE MARKEZINIS' PREFERENCE FOR GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE, ARCHBISHOP SAID THAT TURKS COULD NOT EXPECT BETTER RESULT FROM ATHENS IN EVENT FAILURE OF LOCAL TALKS, BUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 02224 311037Z

HE ADDED--SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTIONALLY--THAT "GRECO-TURKISH

DIALOGUE ON CYPRUS...WOULD AIM AT FINDING SOLUTION TO PROBLEM, BUT A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF CYPRIOT PEOPLE." ARCHBISHOP SAID HE PROBABLY WOULD VISIT ATHENS "VERY SOON" (SOME PRESS CONTINUE TO PUT VISIT AROUND MID-NOVEMBER).

2. VIOLENCE. LARGEST PORTION OF CONFERENCE DEALT WITH GOVTS HANDLING OF VIOLENCE ISSUE (REF NICOSIA 2180), THE CENTRAL CONCERN OF MUCH RECENT LOCAL PRESS COMMENTARY (INCLUDING LYSSARIDES RAG, "TA NEA".) IN SERIES OF ANSWERS, MAKARIOS CONDEMNED "ETHNIKI" RAID AND VIOLENT TREATMENT METED TO GRIVASITE DETAINEES, BUT ADMITTED--MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER--THAT BOTH GOVT ORGANS AND PRO-GOVT GROUPS HAD COMMITTED SERIES OF ILLEGAL ACTS AGAINST ENOSIST CAMP. ARCHBISHOP DECLINED COMMENT FURTHER ON CENTRAL PRISON INCIDENT AND EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT OCT 28 MURDER OF KNOWN ENOSIST IN KATO DHIKOMO (CURRENT CAUSE CELEBRE FOR GRIVAS PRESS) HAD POLITICAL MOTIVES.

3. GRIVAS. ARCHBISHOP CLAIMED THAT GRIVAS' SOLE AIM NOW WAS HIS EXTERMINATION. WHILE SPURNING VAGUE REPRISAL THREAT IN RECENT GRIVAS LEAFLET, MAKARIOS IMPLICITLY CONCEDED VALIDITY OF GENERAL'S COMPLAINT RE ILL TREATMENT OF HIS SUPPORTERS, THOUGH HE LABORED TO DESCRIBE SUCH CASES AS RARE AND BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION.

4. INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. MAKARIOS REPEATED EARLIER LINE RE NEW TURK CYPRIOT INFLEXIBILITY IN LOCAL TALKS, PROGRESS OF WHICH NOT SATISFACTORY. HE TOOK HARD STAND RE TCPA LAND TRANSFER SCHEME AND MOVE TO TAX FOREIGN BANKS IN TURK SECTORS, AND INSISTED RECENT HELICOPTER FLIGHTS OVER KARPASS WERE TURKISH. (MAINLAND GREEK COMMANDER OF CYPRUS NAVY WHO MONITORED FLIGHTS ASSURES US THEY WERE RUSSIAN.) HE DID NOT REPEAT GOVTS EARLIER THREAT TO SHOOT DOWN SUCH INTRUDERS (NICOSIA 1668). NOR DID HE ALLUDE TO TURK AMB INHAN'S OCT 26 SPEECH HAILING (1) SEPARATENESS OF TURKISH COMMUNITY; (2) CONTINUED PRESENCE OF TURK CONTINGENT PER TREATY RIGHTS, AND (3) TCPA'S SELF-RULE STATUS--A SPEACH WHICH DREW FIRE FROM PRO-GOVT PAPER "PHILELEFTHEROS". GENERALLY ARCHBISHOP AVOIDED ENOSIS RHETORIC IN HIS ANSWERS PERHAPS BECAUSE SEVERAL MINISTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 02224 311037Z

HAVE PLAYED ON THEME HEAVILY IN WEEKEND'S OHI DAY SPEECHES.

5. MID EAST WAR. MAKARIOS HAILED THE U.S. AND SOVIET INTERVENTION FOR RESTORATION OF PEACE IN MID EAST. REITERATED THAT CYPRUS WOULD BE PLEASED TO SERVE AS VENUE FOR MID EAST PEACE TALKS AND ADDED THAT GOVT HAD ALREADY SO INFORMED UNSYG AND IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED STATES. (PRESS HAS TOYED WITH THEME IN PAST FEW DAYS.)

6. CHURCH ELECTIONS. MAKARIOS SAID ELECTIONS FOR NEW BISHOP OF KYRENIA WILL BE HELD "VERY SOON" (THUS COMPLETING REPLACEMENT OF THREE DEPOSED BISHOPS AND SUBSEQUENT RESTRUCTURING OF CYPRUS CHURCH).

7. TRAVEL NOVEMBER 1-13. ARCHBISHOP CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL VISIT ETHIOPIA NOV 1-6, MALTA NOV 6-9, AND LIBYA 9-13. SAID AGREEMENT FOR FIRST LIBYAN AMBASSADOR HERE HAD BEEN GIVEN.

8. COMMENT: INTRIGUING COMMENT RE ATHENS/ANKARA DIALOGUE ALMOST APPEARS TO INVITE FAILURE OF LOCAL TALKS AND SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF DIALOGUE TO MAINLAND VENUE. MOREOVER, IT APPEARS REPRESENT MAJOR CHANGE FROM MAKARIOS' EARLIER POSITION THAT GRECO-TURKISH TALKS COULD ONLY OCCUR ON BASIS ENOSIS. ON VIOLENCE, WE HAVE NOTED RECENT WIDE RANGE OF EDITORIAL AND POPULAR CONCERN AGAINST GOVT'S HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE. (INDEPENDENT "ALITHIA" HAS EVEN SUGGESTED THAT MAKARIOS SHOULD RESORT TO EMERGENCY POWERS RATHER THAN "ANTIVIOLENCE" IN COPING WITH GRIVAS DANGER.) ADMISSION BY ARCHBISHOP THAT IRREGULARITIES HAVE OCCURRED LIKELY MAKE ISSUE LOOM EVEN LARGER, BECAUSE HIS DECLAMATIONS AGAINST PRO-GOVT VIOLENCE WILL HARDLY SATISFY EITHER GRIVAS CAMP OR OTHER PARTIES WHO WANT GOVT TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER. RE MID EAST PEACE TALKS, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE CHANCE THAT CYPRUS DOES HARBOR SUCH AMBITIONS BUT RATHER BELIEVE ITS MAIN CONTRIBUTION TOWARD MID EAST SETTLEMENT IN COMING WEEKS WILL BE DRAWDOWN ON UNFICYP FOR SERVICE ON ARAB/ISRAEL BORDERS. END COMMENT.
GRANT

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